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Message Text

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R 160107Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PINT, UR

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA STUDY GROUP TO USSR

1. GROUP OF TEN UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PROFESSORS OF VAR-
IOUS FIELDS WILL VISIT USSR AUG 22 - SEPT 21 ON INTOURIST
TOUR OF EIGHT SOVIET CITIES AND FERGUNA VALLEY. GROUP HOPES
TO HAVE CLOSE LOOK AT OPERATIONS OF FARMS, FACTORIES AND
SCHOOLS AND TO MEET WITH MANAGEMENT AND OTHERS. VISIT IS
THIRD IN A SERIES AT TEN YEAR INTERVALS -- SIX MEMBERS ,AR-
TICIPATED IN SIMILAR TOURS IN 1958 AND 1968. ALTHOUGH GROUP
HAS NO DETAILED ITINERARY, MEMBERS ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT
SCHEDULING USEFUL MEETINGS AFTER ARRIVAL. IF THIS TOUR IS
AS INFORMATIVE AS ITS PRECURSORS, PROFESSORS PLAN TO USE
FINDINGS AS BASIS FOR A BOOK ON THE THEME "STRENGTHS AND
STRAINS IN THE USSR."

2. IN RESPONSE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY OFFICE OF VICE-
PRESIDENT MONDALE, DEPARTMENT CONTACTED GROUP MEMBER FRAN-
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CIS BODDY TO LEARN GROUP'S PLANS AND NEEDS. GROUP IS INTER-
ESTED IN INFORMAL BRIEFING AND DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY/
CONGEN OFFICERS AT THEIR CONVENIENCE. GROUP WILL CONTACT
PAO IN LENINGRAD AND MOSCOW AFTER ARRIVAL TO ARRANGE
MEETINGS

3. MEMBERS OF GROUP ARE JOHN ADAMS, ROBERT BECK, FRANCIS

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BODDY, ROBERT HOLLOWAY, WILLIAM S. HOWELL, JOHN MUNHOLLAND, PHILIP RAUP, THEOFANIS STAVROU (LEADER; PROFESSOR OF RUSSIAN HISTORY), JOHN TURNER, AND MATT WALTON. SPECIALITIES ARE ECONOMICS, MANAGEMENT, HISTORY, COMMUNICATIONS, AGRICULTURE, GEOLOGY, AND POLITICAL SCIENCE. ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS:

AUG 22 - ARRIVE LENINGRAD (FROM VARIOUS LOCATIONS)

AUG 25 - MOSCOW

AUG 29 - TASHKENT

AUG 30 - 31 - TOUR FERGUNA VALLEY

SEP 1 - TASHKENT

SEP 2 - NOVOSIBIRSK

SEP 4 - TASHKENT

SEP 7 VOLGOGRAD VIA TBILISI

SEP 10 - ROSTOW

SEP 12 - YALTA

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SEP 15 - KIEV

SEP 17 - MOSCOW

SEP 21 - DEPART USSR TO VARIOUS DESTINATIONS.

4. SINCE MOST GROUP MEMBERS WILL LEAVE US MOMENTARILY, THERE IS NO NEED TO CONFIRM EMBASSY/CONGEN WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH GROUP. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED AFTER VISIT IN KNOWING WHAT KIND OF PROGRAM THEY GET FROM IN-TOURIST.
CHRISTOPHER

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